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**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS
RENDERED BY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

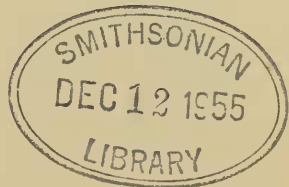
Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 363

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, of a type species
in harmony with accustomed usage for the nominal genus
Ancylus Müller (O.F.), 1774 (Class Gastropoda)



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OPINION 363

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED USAGE FOR THE NOMINAL GENUS "ANCYLUS" MÜLLER (O.F.), 1774 (CLASS GASTROPODA)

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers (a) all selections of type species for the nominal genus *Ancylus* Müller (O.F.), 1774 (Class Gastropoda) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and (b) the nominal species *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller (O.F.), 1774, is hereby designated to be the type species of the foregoing genus.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 884 and 885 respectively :—

- (a) *Ancylus* Müller (O.F.), 1774 (gender : masculine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above : *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller (O.F.), 1774) ;
- (b) *Acroloxus* Beck, 1837 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection by Herrmannsen (1846) : *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758, as interpreted by Müller (O.F.), 1774 : 199—200) ;

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 502 and 503 respectively :—

- (a) *fluviatilis* Müller (O.F.), 1774, as published in the combination *Ancylus fluviatilis* (specific name, by designation under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above, of type species of *Ancylus* Müller (O.F.), 1774) ;
- (b) *lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Patella lacustris*, as interpreted in the manner specified in (2)(b) above (specific name of type species of *Acroloxus* Beck, 1837).

(4) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 303 and 304 respectively :—

- (a) *Ancylus* Geoffroy (E.L.), 1767 (a name published in a work rejected for nomenclatorial purposes¹) ;
- (b) *Pseudancylus* Walker, 1921 (a junior objective synonym of *Ancylus* Müller (O.F.), 1774, as determined under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above).

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 6th November 1946 Dr. Bengt Hubendick (*Zoologiska Institutionen, Uppsala, Sweden*) submitted a preliminary application relating to the preservation of the generic name *Ancylus* in the sense historically attaching to that name in palaeontological literature. For the reasons explained in paragraph 3 of the present *Opinion*, it was not possible to deal with this application at the time of its receipt and later it was necessary to revise it in certain respects. In the form in which it was finally submitted this application was as follows :—

¹ For the decision by which the work in which the name was published was rejected by the Commission see *Opinion* 362 (pp. 173 to 182 of the present volume).

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to designate a type species for the genus "Ancylus" Müller, 1774 (Class Gastropoda) in harmony with established nomenclatorial practice

By BENGT HUBENDICK
(Riksmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden)

The object of the present application is to seek the assistance of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, through the use of its Plenary Powers, in securing that the type species of the genus *Ancylus* Müller (O.F.), 1774 (Class Gastropoda), shall be the species commonly accepted as such and to avoid the confusion which would result from the strict application of the normal rules in this case. That confusion would be extremely serious, for under the normal rules it would be necessary to abandon the term "*Ancylus*-See" which is universally used to denote a well-known former limnic stage of the Baltic and is so deeply entrenched in the literature of European geology that its abandonment would be open to the strongest possible objection and must, indeed, be regarded as entirely impracticable.

2. The generic name *Ancylus* was first published in 1767 by Geoffroy on pages 13 and 124 of his *Traité sommaire des Coquilles . . . qui se trouvent aux Environs de Paris*. Geoffroy placed what he regarded as one species only in this genus but he did not cite it under a binominal name. The description which he gave is so vague that the species which he had in mind might have been either the species now commonly treated as having already been named *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 783) or the later named species *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller (O.F.), 1774 (*Verm. terrestr. fluviat. Hist.* 2 : 201). Geoffroy stated, however, that the species in question was the only one known in the neighbourhood of Paris and this suggests that that species was the common *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller. This inference is supported by the fact that Geoffroy cited (1) Lister (1678, *Hist. Anim. Angl.* : 151, pl. 2, fig. 32), (2) Gualtieri (1742, *Index Test. Conch.* : pl. 2, fig. AA), and (3) d'Argenville (1780, *Conch.* 2 : 1, pls. 8, 27), for the figures given by all of these authors appear to represent the foregoing species. On the other hand, Geoffroy cited also the description of *Patella lacustris* published by Linnaeus in 1746 (*Faun. svec.* (ed. 1) : 369) and again in 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 783). There has, however, been discussion in the past as to the identity of the species to which Linnaeus applied this name. Jeffreys (1862, *Brit. Conch.* 1 : 123), for example, and Woodward (B.B.) (1903, *J. Conch.* 10 : 361) pointed out that the description given by Linnaeus applied as well to the species *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller as to that to which the name *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758, is commonly applied; the figures cited by Linnaeus appear to depict *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller, and that species alone is represented in the Linnean collection. It was for reasons of this order that nearly one hundred years ago Forbes & Hanley (1852, *Hist. Brit. Moll.* 4 : 188) and Hanley (1855, *Ipsa Linnaei Conchylia* : 426) applied the trivial

name *lacustris* Linnaeus to the species named *fluviatilis* by Müller. In recent times other authors, including Kennard & Woodward (1920, *J. linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.)* 34 : 210) have taken the opposite view, holding either that the species which Müller identified as *Ancylus lacustris* (Linnaeus) was in fact the species to which Linnaeus in 1758 had given the name *Patella lacustris* or that, notwithstanding the dissimilarity of that species from *Ancylus fluviatilis*, Linnaeus had confused the two species together and therefore that his nominal species *Patella lacustris* was a composite species. It may, therefore, be the case that Geoffroy had in mind only one species, namely *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller, when in 1767, he used the generic name *Ancylus*. As we shall see, however, the name *Ancylus*, as used by Geoffroy, is an invalid name. The sense in which he applied it has, therefore, no nomenclatorial significance, being of historical interest only. As to the trivial name *lacustris* Linnaeus, there is no doubt that Müller (1774) applied it to the first of the two species which may have been comprised in it by Linnaeus, for to the second of those species he then gave the name *Ancylus fluviatilis*. It is in accordance with the interpretation of Müller that the name *lacustris* Linnaeus is now generally used and it is in this sense that the nominal species *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus is today accepted as the type species of *Acroloxus* Beck, 1837 (see paragraph 7 below).

3. There have in the past been differences of opinion among specialists on the question whether in his *Traité sommaire* of 1767 Geoffroy applied the principles of "nomenclature binaire" (as prescribed, up to 1948, by Proviso (b) to Article 25 of the *Règles*) and therefore as to whether new names published by Geoffroy in the foregoing work acquired thereby any rights under the Law of Priority. Fortunately, all scope for further argument regarding the meaning to be attached to the above Proviso to Article 25 was put an end to in Paris in 1948 when the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, on the recommendation of the International Commission, (1) gave a ruling that the expression "nomenclature binaire", as hitherto used in the *Règles*, had a meaning identical with that attaching to the expression "nomenclature binominale", and (2) decided to substitute the latter entirely unambiguous expression for the expression "nomenclature binaire", wherever that expression had formerly appeared in the *Règles* (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 63—66). During the same session the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature decided that, in accordance with the foregoing decision, another work by Etienne Louis Geoffroy [1727—1810], his *Histoire abrégée des Insectes qui se trouvent aux Environs de Paris*, failed to comply with the requirements of Proviso (b) to Article 25, by reason of the fact that in that work Geoffroy had not "appliqué les principes de la nomenclature binominale" (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 366—369). The system of nomenclature in the *Traité sommaire* is identical with that used both earlier (in 1762) and later (in 1799—1800) in the two editions of the *Histoire abrégée*. It follows, therefore, that under the decisions

cited above new names in the *Traité sommaire* possess no rights under the Law of Priority in virtue of having been so published. In order, however, to put a stop to the risk of further discussion on this subject, it would be convenient if the International Commission were now to give a formal ruling to the foregoing effect, so that the *Traité sommaire* may be added to the list of works rejected for non-compliance with Provison (b) to Article 25.

4. Having now established that the name *Ancylus* Geoffroy, 1767, is not an available name, we have to determine what was the next subsequent occasion on which the name *Ancylus* was published as a generic name. This was in 1774, when it was so used by O. F. Müller (*Ancylus* Müller, 1774, *Verm. terrestr. fluviat. Hist.* 2 : 199). Müller, who employed the Linnean binominal system of nomenclature, cited two nominal species as belonging to this genus, namely : (1) *Ancylus lacustris* (Linnaeus, 1758) (= *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758), and (2) the new nominal species *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller (: 201). One or other of these two nominal species must therefore be the type species of *Ancylus* Müller.

5. It is now known that the first type selection for this genus was made in 1823 by Children (*Quart. J. Sci. Lit. Arts* 15 : 231), who so selected the nominal species *Ancylus lacustris* (Linnaeus). This selection was completely overlooked at the time and this species later became one of the originally included species of the nominal genus *Acroloxus* Beck, 1837 (*Index Moll. Mus. Christ. Freder.* : 124), to which it is still commonly referred and of which it was selected as the type species by Herrmannsen in 1846 (*Indic. Gen. Malacoz. Primordia* 1 : 16).

6. The next selection of a type species for the genus *Ancylus* Müller was by Gray in 1847 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 15 : 181), when the nominal species *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller, 1774, was so selected. Ever since that date, the name *Ancylus* has been generally used for the genus which includes this species. Moreover, it is upon the basis of this type selection that the name *Ancylus* has been employed in the term "Ancylus-See" by Baltic geologists to denote the stage of the Baltic Sea when this genus occurred in that area. Among the important recent authors by whom the name *Ancylus* has been used in the foregoing sense may be noted Thiele (1931, *Handbuch der syst. Weichtierkunde* 1 (Pt. 2) : 482 ; *ibid.* 2 (Pt. 4) : 1151), who maintained that this usage was correct.

7. Some modern authors have however used the name *Ancylus* for the species selected as the type species by Children. This has led to great confusion, for it has not only involved the transfer of the generic name *Ancylus* from the genus containing *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller, for which it is so well known as a name, to the genus hitherto always known as *Acroloxus* Beck, but, in addition, has deprived of its meaning

the term “*Ancylus-See*”, since *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus, which, on this transfer, becomes the type species of *Ancylus*, did not occur in the limnic stage of the Baltic to which the term “*Ancylus-See*” is always applied. It is for the purpose of putting an end to this state of confusion that the International Commission is now asked to use its Plenary Powers to designate *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller, 1774, as the type species of the genus *Ancylus* Müller, 1774.

8. For the reasons set forth above, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked to stabilise the nomenclature of the two genera here under discussion in the following manner, that is, that the Commission should :—

- (1) give a ruling that in the work entitled *Traité sommaire des Coquilles . . . qui se trouvent aux Environs de Paris*, published in 1767 (as in the *Histoire abrégée des Insectes qui se trouvent aux Environs de Paris*, published in 1762 and republished in 1799—1800) Geoffroy (E.L.) did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature, as required by Proviso (b) to Article 25 of the *Règles*, as amended by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, and therefore that no name acquired availability under the Law of Priority in virtue of being so published ;
- (2) use its Plenary Powers (a) to set aside all type selections for the genus *Ancylus* Müller (O.F.), 1774, made prior to the decision now proposed to be taken, and (b) to designate *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller (O.F.), 1774, to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;
- (3) place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—
 - (a) *Ancylus* Müller (O.F.), 1774 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, by designation, as proposed under (2)(b) above, under the Plenary Powers : *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller (O.F.), 1774) ;
 - (b) *Acroloxus* Beck, 1837 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, by selection by Herrmannsen (1846) : *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758, as interpreted by Müller (O.F.), 1774 : 199—200) ;
- (4) place the under-mentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
 - (a) *fluviatilis* Müller (O.F.), 1774, as published in the binominal combination *Ancylus fluviatilis* (trivial name of species proposed, under (2)(b) above, to be designated, under the Plenary Powers, as the type species of *Ancylus* Müller (O.F.), 1774) ;

- (b) *lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binominal combination *Patella lacustris*, the species so named to be interpreted as specified in (3)(b) above (trivial name of type species of *Acroloxus* Beck, 1837) ;
- (5) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name *Ancylus* Geoffroy, 1767 (name published in a work rejected as not complying with the requirements of Proviso (b) to Article 25 of the *Règles*).

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Dr. Hubendick's preliminary application in 1946 the question of the future interpretation of the generic name *Ancylus* was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 240. At that time it was contemplated that the foregoing case should be dealt with jointly with that of the generic name *Ancylastrum* Bourguignat, 1853, but later it was decided that, although the *Ancylastrum* problem was bound up in certain respects with that of the name *Ancylus*, the latter represented an entirely distinct problem. It was therefore considered that the most convenient course would be (1) for a separate application to be prepared for each of these cases, and (2) for these applications to be published simultaneously and, later, considered by the Commission successively. At this point the case of the name *Ancylastrum* was allotted a separate Registered Number—Z.N.(S.) 546.

3. Revision of the present application in 1951 : Correspondence in regard to various aspects of the present application was exchanged between the Secretary and the applicant in 1947 but it was not possible to bring this case before the Commission at its Session held in Paris in 1948, for one of the main problems involved—the status to be accorded to Geoffroy's *Traité sommaire* of 1767²—raised an issue of principle regarding the interpretation

² For the later history of this case see paragraph 10 of the present *Opinion*.

of the expression "nomenclature binaire" which at that time figured in Proviso (b) to Article 25 and which was then awaiting solution by the International Congress of Zoology. The settlement of this general question by the Paris Congress³ cleared the ground for the further consideration of the present case. In the period from the close of the Paris Congress until the summer of 1950 the entire resources of the Office of the Commission were directed to the preparation and publication of the Official Record of the Proceedings of the Commission at its Paris Session, and it was not until the close of that period that it was possible to resume work on the preparation for publication in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* of applications relating to individual nomenclatorial problems submitted to the Commission for decision. Work on the present case was resumed in the early part of 1951. Like all other cases which had been submitted prior to the Paris Congress and which were still outstanding, the present case required revision in certain respects in order to bring it into line with the General Directives relating to the placing of names on *Official Lists* and other matters which had been issued to the Commission by that Congress. The necessary revision was completed in the present case by 11th June 1951.

4. Preliminary Consultations in 1951 : During the concluding stages of the revision of the present application in the summer of 1951 Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, invited comments on the action proposed from two specialists who were known to be interested in this case. The specialists so consulted were (1) Mr. A. E. Ellis (*Epsom College, Epsom, England*) who had already raised with the Commission the question of the stabilisation of the names *Ancylus* and *Acroloxus* ; (2) Mr. Hugh Watson (*Cambridge, England*), with whom Dr. Hubendick had been in correspondence prior to the submission of the present application. The comments received from these specialists are given in the immediately following paragraphs.

5. Support for the present application received from Mr. A. E. Ellis (Epsom College, Epsom, England) : In a letter dated 5th

³ See 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 64—66.

June 1951 Mr. A. E. Ellis (*Epsom College, Epsom, England*) indicated as follows his support for the proposals submitted by Dr. Hubendick :—

In my application Z.N.(S.) 470 (1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **2** : 119—125) for the addition to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* of the names of certain non-marine genera of the Phylum Mollusca, I included a request that there should be added to the *List* (1) the name *Ancylus* Müller (O.F.), 1774 (type species, by selection by Gray (1847) : *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller (O.F.), 1774) and (2) the name *Acroloxus* Beck, 1837 (type species, by selection by Herrmannsen (1846) : *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758)⁴. Since the publication of the foregoing application my attention has been drawn to the fact that, prior to the selection by Gray in 1847 of *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller, 1774, as the type species of *Ancylus* Müller, 1774, Children in 1823 (*Quart. J. Sci.* **15** : 231) had selected *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758 (the second of the two nominal species cited by Müller in 1774 under the generic name *Ancylus*) to be the type species of the genus *Ancylus* Müller.

2. Children's action in this matter, which I regret I overlooked, makes it necessary to re-examine this case, since, under a strict application of the *Règles*, it would be necessary to transfer the generic name *Ancylus* Müller from the genus for which it is so well-known to the genus equally well-known under the name *Acroloxus* Beck, 1837. In addition, it would be necessary to find a new term in place of the term "*Ancylus* Lake" to denote the stage in the history of the Baltic Sea at present known by that term by reason of the occurrence of *Ancylus*, as typified by *A. fluviatilis* Müller, in that area during the portion of the Pleistocene concerned.

3. As will immediately be obvious, such changes could not fail to give rise to confusion, affecting, as they would, the nomenclature both of living and fossil forms, and also general geological literature. I understand that on these grounds Dr. Bengt Hubendick of the University of Uppsala has requested the International Commission to prevent this confusion from arising by using its Plenary Powers to set aside Children's (1823) selection of *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type species of *Ancylus* Müller, 1774, and itself to designate *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller, 1774, to be the type species of this genus. This is

⁴ In view of Mr. Ellis's letter of 5th June 1951 the proposals in regard to the names *Ancylus* and *Acroloxus* which had been included, with other proposals, in his application Z.N.(S.) 470 were treated as having been superseded by his support for the application submitted by Dr. Hubendick. For the decision taken by the Commission on the remaining portions of the application Z.N.(S.) 470 see *Opinion* 335 (1955, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* **10** : 45—76).

precisely the action which, in my opinion, is required if serious and unnecessary confusion and name-changing is to be avoided in this case. I accordingly desire to support Dr. Hubendick's recommendation that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should use its Plenary Powers in the manner proposed.

6. Comment received from Mr. Hugh Watson (Cambridge, England) : On 15th June 1951 Mr. Hugh Watson (*Cambridge, England*) addressed to the Commission the following letter setting out his views as to the advantages and disadvantages involved in the grant of Dr. Hubendick's application :—

I have been asked to express my views on an application submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in 1947 asking the Commission "to use its Plenary Powers to designate *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller, 1774, to be the type species of the above genus, in place of *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758, selected as such by Children in 1823". Although I have not seen the application itself, I am informed that it "is based upon the confusion which would result from the strict application of the ordinary Rules in the present case, having regard especially to the fact that the term 'Ancylus-See' is deeply entrenched in European geological literature as the name of a limnic stage of the Baltic, that term having been given because of the occurrence in that area of the foregoing species; the strict application of the ordinary Rules would mean the acceptance as the type species of *Ancylus* of a species which did not occur in the foregoing area, with the result that the long-standing term 'Ancylus-See' would lose its meaning and would have to be abandoned for some entirely new expression, a course which [the applicant] considers would be entirely impracticable".

The sentence just quoted seems to me admirably to summarise the strongest reason in favour of this application being granted. To attempt to change the long-standing term "Ancylus-See" (or Lake) might cause much inconvenience and possible confusion to geologists for a very long period; while to retain it if the genus now to be called *Ancylus* is not known to occur there might seem to be sadly misleading. In favour of this application being granted I might also point out that E. L. Geoffroy in his work of 1767, in which he proposed the name *Ancylus*, is not considered to have employed binominal nomenclature, and the name must therefore be attributed to O. F. Müller, 1774, who included in the genus the two species, *A. lacustris* (Linnaeus) and *A. fluviatilis* Müller; and that those subsequent authors who first placed these species in separate genera, such as J. E. Gray, 1840 (in Turton's *Manual*, pp. 66, 230), H. & A. Adams, 1855, and their

followers removed *A. lacustris* to a separate genus with another name and retained *A. fluviatilis* in *Ancylus* itself, of which genus Gray in 1847 selected "*Pat. fluviatilis*" as the type species. Moreover, even since the discovery in 1921 of Children's prior type selection, eminent malacologists like Thiele (1931, 1935), Ehrmann (1933), Hubendick (1947), and Mandahl-Barth (1949) have continued this usage, which it is the object of the present application to make permanent. And if the genus containing *A. lacustris* is to be called *Ancylus*, then the correct name of that to which *A. fluviatilis* belongs will be in doubt, some authors considering that it should be *Ancylastrum* Bourguignat, 1853, and others *Pseudancylus* Walker, 1921.

On the other hand, the following arguments might be advanced in opposition to the granting of this application. The name *Ancylus* was first proposed by Geoffroy in 1767 for a single species which he identified as *Patella lacustris* Linnaeus; and, although there is a slight doubt as to whether the species to which Linnaeus and Geoffroy applied this name was not a composite one that included also Müller's *A. fluviatilis*, there can be no such doubt in regard to the identity of the *Ancylus lacustris* of Müller, which he placed first and stated was Geoffroy's '*Ancylus*', the name which Müller adopted for the genus. It might therefore be argued that *A. lacustris* must be taken as the type species of *Ancylus* Müller, in the same way that it is held that when in 1781 Müller adopted the name *Bulinus* Adanson, 1757, for another genus, the species to which Adanson had applied this name (and which Müller called *B. senegalensis*) must be regarded as the type species of Müller's genus *Bulinus* (see Pilsbry & Bequaert, 1927, p. 134). Accordingly, when Children definitely selected *A. lacustris* as the type species of *Ancylus* in 1823, he was acting very properly, and Gray was clearly making a mistake in selecting *A. fluviatilis* as the type species 24 years later. That this was a mistake, however, was realised more than thirty years ago, and since then most authors have rightly regarded *A. lacustris* as the type species of *Ancylus*, and if they placed *A. fluviatilis* in a separate genus, they have given it another generic name. For example, this course was followed by Kennard & Woodward in 1920, and in their "Synonymy" (1926) and in their many other writings on British Pleistocene, Holocene, and Recent non-marine Mollusca; by Bryant Walker, the American authority on the Ancyliidae, in various writings from 1921 until his death; by H. B. Baker, who wrote in 1925: "*Ancylus* Müller (1774), type *Patella lacustris* Linné (chosen by Children, 1823—4) is the only legitimate *Ancylus* s.s."; by A. E. Ellis in his standard book on British snails (1926); by Pilsbry & Bequaert in their great work on the freshwater Mollusca of the Congo (1927); by L. Germain in his standard work on French land and freshwater Mollusca (1931); by C. R. Boettger in his paper on freshwater limpets (1932) and subsequent works on German Gastropods; by H. Schlesch in his writings on the non-marine Mollusca of Denmark (1934) and Latvia (1942); by M. Connolly in his Monographic Survey of South African non-marine Mollusca (1939); and by L. Forcart in his small

book on Swiss snails and mussels (1947). Seeing therefore that the majority of able writers on this subject in different countries appear to have employed the name *Ancylus* for the genus including *A. lacustris*, in accordance with the Rules, it might be argued that it would be extremely confusing to attempt now to transfer this name to the genus containing *A. fluviatilis* in opposition to the ordinary Rules.

Thus, it might be thought that the International Commission should not use its powers to suspend the Rules, when to do so now would lead to a change that might cause greater confusion than the alteration of the term "Ancylus-See" to "Pseudancylus-See" or "Ancylastrum-See", which is as great a change as the geologists might need to make in their terminology. And they might not think that even this change was at all necessary, for during the nineteenth century the majority of authors followed Müller himself in including both *A. lacustris* and *A. fluviatilis* in the genus *Ancylus*, and even as late as 1927 and 1930 eminent malacologists like D. Gyer and G. Mermod continued to do so in their well-known works on German and Swiss snails, and so did A. E. Boycott in 1936, when he dealt with the habitats of the British fresh-water Mollusca. Therefore, the term "Ancylus-See", being by no means new, might be held simply to mean that the lake contained fresh-water limpets, that is to say, members of the genus *Ancylus* in its older and broader sense, without implying to which of the smaller genera into which *Ancylus* is now divided they belonged.

Lastly, if, contrary to the ordinary Rules, the name *Ancylus* were now to be applied to the restricted genus which includes *A. fluviatilis* instead of to that containing *A. lacustris*, it would still be necessary to decide whether *A. fluviatilis* is also to be regarded as the type species of *Ancylastrum* Bourguignat, 1853, notwithstanding that Bourguignat himself designated his *A. cumingianus* as the type species as on this disputed question depends the problem not only of which of the two generic names, *Pseudancylus* Walker, 1921, and *Ancylastrum*, should be used for *A. fluviatilis* if *Ancylus* is used for *A. lacustris*, but also of whether *Ancylastrum* or *Tasmancylus* Iredale, 1926, is to be used for *A. cumingianus* Bourguignat, which belongs to a third genus. It is to be hoped that the International Commission will not fail also to decide this matter at the same time, as reference to the same body of literature is necessary for its study, and it concerns practically the same question, namely, of which genus or genera should *A. fluviatilis* be regarded as the type species.

It is, in my view, clear that the advantages of suspending the strict application of the Rules in the present case would not be so unquestionable as in cases where the technical validity of generic names in general use is found to be doubtful but their change would cause great confusion

and their retention none at all—as in *Bithynia* for *B. tentaculata* (Linnaeus), etc., and *Helicella* for *H. itala* (Linnaeus), etc. My view is therefore that the Commission would do well to consider carefully the weighty arguments against as well as in favour of granting this application before coming to a conclusion about it. It is greatly to be hoped, however, that it will then come to a definite decision, one way or the other, without further delay, that will enable us to know whether we should call the genus containing *A. lacustris* (Linnaeus) *Ancylus* Müller or *Acroloxus* Beck, that containing *A. fluviatilis* *Ancylus* Müller, *Ancylastrum* Bourguignat⁵ or *Pseudancylus* Walker, and that containing *A. cumingianus* Bourguignat *Ancylastrum* Bourguignat or *Tasmancylus* Iredale.

7. Publication of the present application : The application submitted by Dr. Hubendick was sent to the printer on 13th May 1952, and was published on 23rd July of the same year in Part 8 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Hubendick, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 227—230). The comments received from Mr. Ellis and Mr. Watson respectively were included in Part 9 of the same volume and were published on the same day as Dr. Hubendick's application (Ellis, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 288 ; Watson, 1952, *ibid.* 6 : 286—288).

8. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 23rd May 1952 (*a*) in Part 8 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Dr. Hubendick's application was published) and (*b*) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, Public Notice was given also to a number of general zoological serial publications and to certain palaeontological serials in Europe and America.

9. No objection received : The issue of the Public Notices specified in the preceding paragraph elicited no objection to the action proposed to be taken in the present case.

⁵ For the decision taken by the Commission in regard to the generic name *Ancylastrum* Bourguignat, 1853 see the immediately following *Opinion* (*Opinion* 364).

10. Decision to treat as a separate case the portion of Dr. Hubendick's application relating to the status to be accorded to the work by Geoffroy (E.L.) entitled the " *Traité Sommaire* " published in 1767 : When in March 1954 Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, came to consider the form of the Voting Paper to be submitted to the Commission in the present case, he took the view that, as the interest attaching to the question of the status to be accorded to the work by Geoffroy (E.L.), *Traité Sommaire des Coquilles, tant fluviatiles que terrestres, qui se trouvent aux Environs de Paris* published in 1767 was considerably wider than that involved in the question whether the name *Ancylus* should be attributed to Geoffroy, 1767, or to Müller (O.F.), 1774, the correct course would be to embody in separate *Opinions* the decisions to be taken by the Commission in regard to these matters. In accordance with this decision, Mr. Hemming prepared two Voting Papers, the first (V.P.(54)30), dealing with the Dr. Hubendick's proposal relating to Geoffroy's *Traité Sommaire*⁶ (which had appeared as Point (1) in paragraph 8 of the present application), the second (V.P.(54)31), concerned with the generic name *Ancylus* Müller and matters incidental thereto (which had appeared as Points (2) to (5) of the paragraph referred to above).

III.—THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

11. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(54)31 : On 17th March 1954, a Voting Paper (V.P.(54)31) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, " the proposal relating to the name *Ancylus* Müller, 1774, as set out in Points (2) to (5) in paragraph 8 on page 230 in volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* " [i.e. in the Points numbered as above in paragraph 8 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

⁶ For the decision by the Commission on the status to be accorded to Geoffroy's *Traité Sommaire* of 1767 see *Opinion* 362 (pp. 173 to 182 of the present volume).

12. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 17th June 1954.

13. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)31 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)31 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following seventeen (17) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Riley ; Holthuis ; Hering ; Bonnet ; Boschma ; Lemche ;
Dymond ; do Amaral ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Esaki ;
Mertens ; Jaczewski ; Bradley (J. C.) ; Hankó ;
Pearson ; Hemming ; Cabrera ;

(b) *Negative Votes, two (2) :*

Vokes ; Stoll ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

14. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 18th June 1954 Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(54)31, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 13 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

15. Addition of “ Pseudancylus ” Walker, 1921, to the “ Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology ” : On 22nd February 1955, Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, placed the

following Minute relating to the generic name *Pseudancylus* Walker, 1921, on the Commission's File Z.N.(S.) 240 :—

Addition of the generic name " Pseudancylus " Walker, 1921, to the " Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology "

MINUTE by FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.,

Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

The decision taken by the Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)31 to use its Plenary Powers to designate the nominal species *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller (O.F.), 1774, to be the type species of the genus *Ancylus* Müller (O.F.), 1774, has, amongst other effects, that of making the name *Pseudancylus* Walker, 1921 (*Nautilus* 35 : 58) a junior objective synonym of *Ancylus* Müller, 1774, since its type species also is by original designation *Ancylus fluviatilis* Müller.

2. Under the General Directives issued to the Commission by the International Congress of Zoology (a) that the Rulings given in *Opinions* are to cover the whole of the ground involved, and (b) that objectively invalid names dealt with in *Opinions* be placed on the appropriate *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names*, the name *Pseudancylus* Walker, 1921, requires now to be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*.

3. As Secretary to the International Commission, I accordingly hereby direct that the generic name *Pseudancylus* Walker, 1921, be entered on the foregoing *Official Index* in the Ruling to be prepared for the *Opinion* embodying the decision taken by the Commission in its vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)31.

16. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Opinion " : On 23rd February 1955 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)31, subject to the adjustment specified in the Secretary's Minute dated 22nd February 1955 (paragraph 15 above).

17. Original References : The following are the original references for the names placed on the *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

Acroloxus Beck, 1837, *Index Moll. Mus. Ch. Fred.* : 124

Ancylus Geoffroy, 1767, *Traité Sommaire Coq. Env. Paris* : 13, 124

Ancylus Müller (O.F.), 1774, *Verm. terrestr. fluviat. Hist.* **2** : 199
fluviatilis, *Ancylus*, Müller (O.F.), 1774, *Verm. terrestr. fluviat.*
Hist. **2** : 201
lacustris, *Patella*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 783
Pseudancylus Walker, 1921, *Nautilus* **35** : 58

18. The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for the genus *Acroloxus* Beck, 1837, specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—Herrmannsen, 1846, *Index Gen. malacozool. Primordia* **1** : 16.

19. Family-group-name aspect : The application dealt with in the present *Opinion* was published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* prior to the establishment of the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953. It has not been possible since then to deal with this aspect of the present case. This question is, however, now being examined on a separate File to which the Registered Number Z.N.(G.) 125 has been allotted.

20. At the time of the submission of the application dealt with in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

21. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is

accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

22. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred and Sixty-Three (363) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Third day of February, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Five.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING